

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 602

By Brooks H

A RESOLUTION relative to the need to expand postsecondary credit-earning opportunities for high school students and urge state education agencies to provide assistance to any organizations conducting a statewide study of the issue.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, with the passage of Tennessee's Complete College Act, has dedicated itself to the educational and economic future of its citizens and enabling them to compete in the global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, in the effort to realize the graduation goals set by this groundbreaking legislation, it is imperative that the students of Tennessee be given every possible opportunity and method to obtain postsecondary credit on their pathway to earning a college degree; and

WHEREAS, many Tennessee schools have made great strides in providing their students access to dual enrollment and dual credit courses and programs while others face a variety of challenges and barriers to overcome to grant their students the same opportunities; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the future of Tennessee and this Nation that our students receive the necessary assistance to earn postsecondary course credits while in high school and shorten the time necessary for them to obtain their degrees; and

WHEREAS, this important issue has become the focus of a number of organizations across Tennessee who are currently banding together to study and examine best practices in other states in this area and issue a report that will make recommendations to Tennessee policymakers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that this General Assembly recognizes the urgent need to expand postsecondary credit-earning opportunities for high school students in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the Tennessee Board of Regents, the University of Tennessee, the Department of Education, and the State Board of Education to provide the necessary data and assistance to any entity conducting a statewide study of the issue with the goal of expanding the earning of postsecondary credit for high school students and that the final report of such entity be presented to the Speaker of the House, the Speaker of the Senate, and the standing Education Committees of both the House and Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, the president of the University of Tennessee, the commissioner of the Department of Education, and the executive director of the State Board of Education.